

MR From My Bookshelf

In June 2000, US Army Chief of Staff General Eric K. Shinseki released a 40-book reading list to help military professionals further develop confidence, military knowledge, habits of reflection and intellectual growth, whether they are officers or noncommissioned officers (NCOs). Many of the following synopses are adapted from those found at <www.amazon.com>.



List 1 Cadets, Soldiers and Junior NCOs

***Band of Brothers: E Company, 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne from Normandy to Hitler's Eagle's Nest*, Stephen E. Ambrose, Touchstone Books, New York, 1993, 335 pages, \$15.00.** During World War II, Easy Company was a world-class rifle company. Its soldiers fought on Utah Beach, in Arnhem, Bastogne and the Bulge; they spearheaded the Rhine offensive, took possession of Adolf Hitler's Eagle's Nest in Berchtesgaden, sustaining 150 percent casualties along the way. *Band of Brothers* is an absorbing account of some of E Company's most critical moments, providing insight into the lives of regular soldiers and their commanders. The book is based on interviews with survivors and soldiers' journals and letters.

***The Long Gray Line*, Rick Atkinson, Owl Books, Buffalo, NY, 1999, 598 pages, \$16.00.** *The Long Gray Line* follows the 1966 West Point class through its 25-year journey from graduation to Vietnam into the difficulties of the peace that followed. The Class lived during an extraordinary time in US history, and Rick Atkinson speaks poignantly for a generation of people, such as Douglas MacArthur and William Westmoreland, who dealt with that era's turmoil, tragedy and disillusionment.

***The Greatest Generation*, Tom Brokaw, Random House, New York, 1998, 412 pages, \$24.95.** Tom Brokaw tells the story of what he proclaims "the greatest generation" through individual stories of people who came of age during the Great Depression and World War II. These people were united by the common values of duty, honor, economy, courage, service, love of family and country and, most of all, responsibility for themselves. Brokaw introduces people who persevered through the Depression, then war, then went on to create the United States as we now know it.

***This Kind of War: The Classic Korean War History*, T. R. Fehrenbach, Brassey's, Dulles, VA, 2000, 488 pages, \$29.95.** This book is a classic study in the consequences an army faces when it enters a war unprepared. Fehrenbach examines the challenges of maintaining a professional military force at odds with the society it is intended to defend. With the authority of personal experience, Fehrenbach describes battles and soldiers' hardships during the Korean War, foretelling with eerie accuracy some of the problems the US would face in Vietnam. In a human, realistic, concise manner, Fehrenbach provides timeless insight about the US volunteer military.

***America's First Battles: 1776-1965*, Charles E. Heller and William A. Stofft, University Press of Kansas, Lawrence, 1986, 432 pages, \$16.95.** The eleven essays in this book focus on the US Army's transition from the parade field to the battlefield during every war in which it has fought. Through careful analysis of organization, training and doctrine, each essay details strengths and weaknesses evidenced by the outcome of

each war's first significant engagement. *America's First Battles* gives a novel, intellectually challenging view of how the United States has prepared for war, developed tactics and conducted operations.

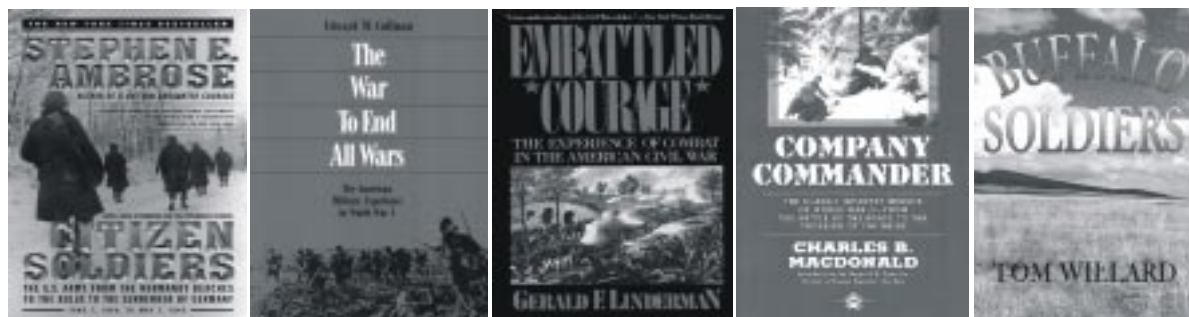
***A Concise History of the US Army: 225 Years of Service*, David W. Hogan Jr., Center of Military History, US Army, Washington, DC, 2000, 39 pages.** In this pamphlet David W. Hogan Jr., traces the US Army's proud 225-year history during the rise of the United States as a nation, detailing the Army's important contributions throughout US history.

***The Face of Battle*, John Keegan, Viking Press, New York, 1995, 343 pages, \$14.95.** John Keegan, a senior instructor at Sandhurst, the British Military Academy, tries to answer the question: "What is it like to be in battle?" He examines the battles of Agincourt in 1415, Waterloo in 1815 and the Somme in 1916, comparing and contrasting various battlefield aspects, from hand-to-hand combat to the long-distance, impersonal destruction of faceless men in the industrial age.

***We Were Soldiers Once . . . and Young: Ia Drang—The Battle That Changed the War in Vietnam*, Lieutenant General (LTG) Harold G. Moore and Joseph L. Galloway, Harper Perennial, New York, 1992, 483 pages, \$14.00.** This book is a detailed account of the 1965 Ia Drang Valley Battle that marked the beginning of the massive ground war in Vietnam. As a lieutenant colonel, Harold G. Moore was the battalion commander who led the fight; Joseph L. Galloway was the journalist who accompanied Moore. From their experiences and first-hand accounts, including those of North Vietnamese commanders, they produced this chronicle of the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry. The book is a vivid portrait of sacrifice, perseverance and courage.

***Once An Eagle*, Anton Myrer, HarperCollins, New York, 2000, 848 pages, \$25.00.** This gripping novel portrays the life of one special soldier, Sam Damon, and his adversary Courtney Massengale. Damon is the consummate professional soldier, decorated in both world wars, who puts duty, honor and soldiers above self-interest. Massengale, the ultimate political animal, disdains the average grunt while advancing his career by making inroads into Washington's powerful elite. *Once An Eagle* is more than a chronicle of US warfare in the 20th century; it is a study in character and the values the US Army continues to cherish: courage, nobility, honesty and selflessness.

***The Killer Angels*, Michael Shaara, Ballantine Books, New York, 1974, 355 pages, \$7.99.** The four days of the Battle of Gettysburg were the four bloodiest, most courageous days in the nation's history. Michael Shaara recreates the battle in stunning detail. But the true brilliance of this historical novel is its insight into what the war meant. Two armies fought for two dreams: one for freedom, the other for a way of life. This book reveals the compassion of the men who led the Civil War armies, making their decisions understandable and even more admirable in the face of the confusion and panic they endured during battle.



List 2 Company Grade Officers and Company Cadre NCOs

***Citizen Soldiers: The U.S. Army from the Normandy Beaches to the Bulge to the Surrender of Germany, June 7, 1944, to May 7, 1945*, Stephen Ambrose, Touchstone Books, New York, 1998, 528 pages, \$17.00.** *Citizen Soldiers* follows the individual characters of this noble, brutal, tragic war, relating the extraordinary stories of ordinary men and women. Stephen Ambrose reveals the learning process of a great army—how to cross rivers; fight in snow, hedgerows and cities; how to coordinate air and ground campaigns; and how ordinary citizens became toughened soldiers in the best army in the world.

***The War to End All Wars: The American Military Experience in World War I*, Edward M. Coffman, University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, 1998, 440 pages, \$16.39.** Edward M. Coffman, providing a refreshing perspective on World War I, focuses on the US role without rehashing Europe's. He briefly details innovations during the war, such as advances in navy and air power. He also provides information and vignettes on key military leaders. Through extensive interviews and research from journals and letters of veterans, portraits emerge of true US heroes.

***The Soldier and the State*, Samuel P. Huntington, Belknap Press, Cambridge, MA, 1981, 534 pages, \$21.50.** In *The Soldier and the State*, Samuel P. Huntington explores the military's role in shaping and protecting society. His 1950s perspective of the development of US civil-military relations is incisive, instructive and remarkably relevant. He also presents his own theory of ideal civil-military relations.

***Embattled Courage: The Experience of Combat in the American Civil War*, Gerald F. Linderman, Free Press, New York, 1989, 357 pages, \$17.95.** This exceptional book explores the world of Civil-War era America and traces soldiers' paths from the exhilaration of enlistment to the disillusionment of battle to postwar alienation. Gerald F. Linderman provides a rare glimpse of personal battles that rage within soldiers as he examines values and the will to fight, revealing how young men's romanticized ideas of a noble, civilized war are transformed by war's grim reality.

***Company Commander*, Charles B. MacDonald, Bantam Books, New York, 1978, 370 pages, \$16.95.** Captain Charles B. MacDonald's first combat experience was as an infantry company commander at the Battle of the Bulge. His story follows the action from the Siegfried Line to the initial defensive actions of the battle. MacDonald details a spectrum of challenges a new leader faces in combat: fear, self-doubt and the struggle to earn his men's respect and confidence. MacDonald's journey is a timeless lesson for company-grade officers in overcoming mental and emotional obstacles.

***Men Against Fire: The Problem of Battle Command*, S.L.A. Marshall, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 2000, 224 pages, \$11.95.** S.L.A. Marshall reported abysmal firing rates among US combat troops during World War II. While the research is suspect and the conclusions disputed, Marshall's ideas found resonance within the Army and led to changes in marksmanship training, with emphasis on suppressive fire and adoption of a lighter-weight, smaller-caliber rifle.

***For the Common Defense: A Military History of the United States of America*, Allan R. Millett and Peter Maslowski, Free Press, New York, 1994, 701 pages, \$22.95.** This book is a comprehensive, perceptive history of military institutions and policies that have ensured US survival since colonial times. This revised, expanded edition, with a new chapter on the post-Cold War era, provides important new material. Discussions include US military policy and campaigns with analyses of political, economic and social forces that have shaped US national defense.

***Certain Victory: The U.S. Army in the Gulf War*, Brassey's, Dulles, VA, 1998, 448 pages, \$21.95.** This official US Army account of its role and performance in the Gulf War provides a chronology of events as well as a critical analysis of the Army's evolution from Vietnam to the Gulf War. *Certain Victory* is highly readable, abundantly illustrated, exquisitely detailed and finely balanced. It provides information gathered from hundreds of interviews and after-action reports and unblinkingly looks at some of the controversial issues still hotly debated.

***General George C. Marshall: Soldier-Statesman of the American Century*, Mark A. Stoler, University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 2000, 355 pages, \$15.95.** This book, a comprehensive, concise merging of military and diplomatic history with biography, emphasizes the pivotal role General George C. Marshall played between 1939 and 1951. Integrating an extensive variety of primary and secondary sources, including Marshall's private papers, Mark A. Stoler relates the frustrations and successes of Marshall's attempts to forge a workable policy consistent with basic principles. Marshall, best remembered for the Marshall Plan, is made comprehensible as a strategist who had long known that economic stability was vital to realizing military and political objectives.

***Buffalo Soldiers: The Black Saber Chronicles*, Tom Willard, Forge, NY, 1997, 336 pages, \$5.99.** *Buffalo Soldiers* depicts the distinguished military service of an African-American man who joined the US Army after

the Civil War. The powerful, action-packed book is a tribute to the bravery, honor, sacrifice and distinguished service of Black soldiers in the US military. The first in a compelling fiction series, the book chronicles Augustus Sharp's adventures, from serving with LTC George A. Custer to charging up San Juan Hill with future US president Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt.



List 3 Field Grade Officers and Senior NCOs

***East of Chosin: Entrapment and Breakout in Korea, 1950*, Roy E. Appleman, Texas A&M University Press, College Station, 1991, 416 pages, \$18.95.** *East of Chosin* is a detailed account of what happened to US Army troops trapped east of the Chosin Reservoir in Korea during the first frigid blasts of November 1950. US forces had pushed deep into North Korea while, unknown to them, Chinese troops, well-equipped for freezing conditions, were about to spring a massive attack on the ill-prepared US soldiers guarding the right flank of the US Marine Corps advance. Based on interviews with survivors, this book provided some men their first knowledge of what befell fellow soldiers.

***Army for Empire: The United States Army in the Spanish-American War*, Graham A. Cosmas, Texas A&M University Press, College Station, 1998, 368 pages, \$17.95.** *Army for Empire* is a fascinating analysis of the Spanish-American War and the campaigns in Cuba, the Philippines, Puerto Rico and Guam. With excellent attention to detail and a brisk, organized approach, Graham Cosmas examines various factors unique to this conflict, identifying shortfalls in the US military, such as the lack of proper medical support, supply and weapons. But Cosmas also highlights the average soldier's courage and determination while enduring and overcoming terrible hardship.

***The Evolution of US Army Tactical Doctrine, 1946-76*, Major Robert A. Doughty, US Army Leavenworth Papers, 1979, Combat Studies Institute, US Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, KS, 57 pages.** Robert A. Doughty describes and analyzes major changes the US Army has undergone since World War II, looking at the social, political and technological factors that affect doctrinal development. Army doctrine's evolution came amid great cycles of change. By examining the broad themes of doctrinal development, Army leaders can gain useful insight into contemporary doctrine. A thorough grounding in doctrine development can provide the impetus to developing innovative solutions for future tactical problems.

***Jomini and His Summary of the Art of War*, Antoine Henri Jomini, Greenhill Press, San Diego, CA, 1996, 416 pages, \$19.95.** Baron Antoine Henri de Jomini served as an aide-de-camp to the Russian Czar during the Napoleonic Wars. Having previously served with the French, he had great insight into the art of Napoleonic warfare and profoundly influenced the military education of US officers before and during the American Civil War. Jomini divided the art of war into five major branches: strategy, grand tactics, logistics, engineering and tactics. This classic contains timeless lessons for the military planner.

***Three Battles: Arnaville, Altuzzo, and Schmidt*, Charles B. MacDonald, Office of the Chief of Military History, Department of Army, Washington, DC, 1952, 443 pages.** This volume, from the *US Forces in World War II* series, presents a microanalysis of the river crossing at Arnaville, the breakthrough at Monte Altuzzo and the assault on Objective SCHMIDT. Based on US Army historian interviews after the operations, the analysis provides rich detail and an unprecedented close-up view of what actually occurred. While limited in scope, these accounts represent scores of battles in their theaters.

***Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era*, James M. McPherson, Ballantine Books, New York, 1989, 904 pages, \$18.00.** In 1988 this book quickly became recognized as the new standard in the field of Civil War history. James McPherson won the Pulitzer Prize for this single-volume treatment of the conflict, which combines dynamic writing style with impressive thoroughness. His fresh information and original interpretations cast new light on the subject and deflate old myths. The book, a brisk narrative, integrates the complex social, political and military events that occurred from war's outbreak to its conclusion at Appomattox.

***The Challenge of Command: Reading for Military Excellence*, Roger H. Nye, Avery Publishing Group, Garden City, NY, 1986, 187 pages, \$9.95.** Roger H. Nye's book is the result of real-world experiences and reflects a lifetime of study and intellectual dialogue with some of the best contemporary leaders and thinkers. The book, a guide for leaders and mentors, has timeless value because it inspires the pursuit of professional development. Nye's insightful guide contains a priceless list of references, resources and examples that can further expand readers' understanding, appreciation and development.

***Summons of the Trumpet: US-Vietnam in Perspective*, Dave R. Palmer, Presidio Press, Novato, CA, 1995, 277 pages, \$19.95.** This carefully detailed book presents a definitive look at the Vietnam War. Dave Palmer explains the history of US involvement in Vietnam and illustrates how events became inextricably linked as domestic discord and a lack of realistic, viable military strategy ultimately led to the first defeat in US history. Palmer provides a nonpartisan look from the first decisive battle in the Ia Drang Valley to continued support of the South Vietnamese with US air power.

***Supplying War: Logistics from Wallenstein to Patton*, Martin Van Creveld, Cambridge University Press, New York, 1979, 284 pages, \$27.95.** Martin Van Creveld examines war from a logistic perspective, offering a fresh view on the lessons from noted campaigns. Since the days of horse-drawn convoys in the 1800s to modern logistical planning, the success or failure of logistic plans has influenced leaders' ability to execute strategic plans. Van Creveld's impressive, detailed research contains more than 300 sources. The source material inspires unique conclusions unbiased by traditional military writings.



List 4 Senior NCOs and Above Brigade Level Leaders

***On War*, Carl von Clausewitz, Viking Press, New York, 1983, 461 pages, \$12.95.** *On War* is the most notable Western attempt to comprehend war's internal dynamics and role as an instrument of policy. Carl von Clausewitz's book, a world classic, is essential reading for professional military officers and historians. Although it is a challenge to read, because of Clausewitz's philosophical approach and dated references (to the Seven Years and Napoleonic wars), it provides powerful answers to the questions on the nature of war, its relationship to the rest of the world and how success is achieved.

***Command Decisions*, Kent Roberts Greenfield, ed., Office of the Chief of Military History, United States Army, Washington, DC, 1960, 565 pages.** This volume, a collection of studies by a panel of historians, provides a unique look at decision making in war at various levels of government and command during World War II. Each essay analyzes the judgment and will of individual leaders as they determine some of the most momentous actions during the modern era.

***War in European History*, Michael Howard, Oxford University Press, New York, 1976, 165 pages, \$15.95.** This book is a unique, comprehensive look into the political and economic aspects of military history. While

not losing a beat in discussing the tactics of the times, Michael Howard provides a clear, enlightened diagram of how war advanced as society changed and how war, in turn, changed society.

***The Rise and Fall of Great Powers: The Economic Change and Military Conflict from 1500 to 2000*, Paul Kennedy, Vintage Books, New York, 1989, 677 pages, \$17.00.** This book is a vital political-science look at national and international power in the modern or post-Renaissance period. Paul Kennedy recounts how innovation as the result of constant warfare has helped propel the West to world supremacy. This book is impressive in its thoroughness, depth of analysis and versatile literary style. For a general survey of the true power holders in the modern era, this book has no peer.

***Diplomacy*, Henry Kissinger, Touchstone Books, New York, 1995, 912 pages, \$20.00.** In *Diplomacy*, Henry Kissinger describes how diplomacy and the balance of power shaped the world. He examines three centuries of Western diplomacy, combining informed historical knowledge, wit and a unique understanding of the forces that secure and divide nations. Kissinger explains the art of diplomacy and reveals why the US has historically forsaken both its style and its substance.

***Military Innovation in the Interwar Period*, Williamson Murray and Alan R. Millet, Cambridge University Press, New York, 1996, 428 pages, \$79.95.** This study of military innovation in the 1920s and 1930s explores differences in how six major military powers capitalized on various innovations, developing technology and weapons and incorporated them into doctrine, organization and styles of operations that contributed to strategic and operational performances during World War II.

***Thinking in Time: The Uses of History for Decision Makers*, Richard E. Neustadt and Ernest R. May, Free Press, New York, 1998, 329 pages, \$15.95.** *Thinking in Time* is a clever, useful guide for leaders battling with complex decision making in modern society. The authors provide a process and an essential reference point for understanding analogies and other mechanisms that decision makers use to evaluate information. By using case studies based on historical precedent, they present their thesis of "seeing time as a stream." They further proposed that, through certain deliberate actions and specific analogies and terms, analysts can present compelling intelligence tailored to the individual decision maker.

***Makers of Modern Strategy: From Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age*, Peter Paret, ed., Princeton University Press, New Jersey, 1986, 941 pages, \$11.95.** These essays provide a chronological guide to strategic theory and applications of military force. The book examines major military developments and explores soldiers and civilians' ideas about how strategic theory and military resources have affected war and peace.

***An American Profession of Arms: The Army Officer Corps 1784-1861*, William B. Skelton, University Press of Kansas, Lawrence, 1992, 481 pages, \$24.95.** In this definitive study, William B. Skelton counters traditional historians who generally place the foundation of military professionalism in the post-Civil War era. He maintains that the early national and antebellum eras were crucial to the rise of the US profession of arms. Through rich analysis Skelton shows that seeds of a distinctive military subculture were sown in the tightly knit garrison communities across the frontier and along the seaboard. Civil War leaders emerged from those experiences and their essential character persisted well into the 20th century.

***On Strategy: a critical analysis of the Vietnam War*, Harry G. Summers Jr., Presidio Press, Novato, CA, 1995, 225 pages, \$15.95.** This book is about the mistakes of limited war introduced by the missteps of US President Harry Truman in Korea and repeated by President Lyndon Johnson in Vietnam. Harry Summers takes an unblinking look at the issues and answers the tough questions: How do you end a war once it begins? How do you define victory and justify the expense in money and lives? Summer's analysis answered the most pressing questions remaining from Vietnam more than a decade before Robert McNamara published his own painful admissions.

***The Peloponnesian War*, Thucydides, Steven Lattimore, trans., Hackett Publishing, Indianapolis, IN, 1998, 656 pages, \$12.95.** Thucydides' classic study combines the elements of ancient Greek tragedy with intense emotion and meticulous analysis. Steven Lattimore, meeting a translator's most daunting challenge, provides an accurate, readable translation. Considered uncompromising in its faithfulness to the original Greek, yet written in clear English, his translation helps today's leaders glean timeless lessons.